tobacco curing barns in Andhra Pradesh energy savings;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Tobacco Board is implementing a scheme for making Flue Cured Virginia tobacco curing barns energy efficient by roof insulation of barns in a phased manner. During 1993-94 season in A.P. 228 barns were insulated for which a total subsidy of Rs. 2,50,800/- was provided.

(c) Does not arise.

Action Contemplated against TTCI Officers

4304. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action that is being contemplated against the officers of the Tea Trading Corporation of India who are responsible for the irregularities pointed out in para 1.53 of the Third Report of the Committees on Public Undertakings 1991-92; and

(b) whether the financial responsibility has been fixed on such officers and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Responsibility for the losses to the Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. in setting up of joint venture company in Singapore during 1981-82, referred to in para 1.53 of the Third Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the year 1991-92, was fixed on the then Chief Executive of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd., who has since resigned.

Pepper Export

4305. SHRI V. GOPOLASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of pepper that has been exported to various countries since 1990; year-wise and country-wise figures;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned through exports during this period; year-wise figures;

(c) when was International Pepper Community Organisation established and the details about the organisation and its membership;

(d) how any meetings of this organisation in the past did take place and the decisions taken in each meeting;

(e) when did the last meeting take place and also the decision taken thereof;

(f) when is the next meeting scheduled to take place; and

(g) what steps are being taken to boost pepper export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Statement is enclosed at Annexure [*See* Appendix 170, Annexure No. 81].

(b) The foreign exchange equivalent to the following value was earned as export realisation:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Value
1990 . . .	118.97
1991 . . .	70.72
1992 . . .	62.65
1993 . . .	178.63

(Figures Provisional)

(c) International Pepper Community was established in March, 1972 with the major pepper producing countries viz. India, Indonesia and Malaysia as its Members. Later in 1981, Brazil also joined as a Member. The main objective of the community is to promote, co-ordinate and harmonise all activities relating to pepper economy in the member countries. IPC is functioning with its Secretariat at Jakarta, Indonesia. Funding of IPC is from the contributions from its member countries. In 1992, Sri Lanka and Micronesia become the Associate Member of IPC and in 1993, Thailand became a Member.

(d) 21 Sessions of International Pepper Community have been held so far. Since the establishment of IPC in 1972, the